

teamwork and dedication, and the Crusaders have shown that they possess both characteristics. The Bluegrass State is widely known for producing great basketball teams, and the June Buchanan Crusaders are no exception. Making it to the state tournament marks a tremendous milestone in their journey for excellence, and I am proud of their accomplishment.

June Buchanan School is located in the small town of Pippa Passes, Kentucky and has 74 students in grades 9 through 12. After winning the regional championship in Southern Kentucky (26–6), the team is playing in the first round of the Kentucky state basketball tournament at Rupp Arena tonight.

Madam Speaker, I want to congratulate the Crusaders for their tremendous success throughout the entire season and wish them the best in the boy's state basketball tournament. Through their hard work, determination, and skill they have made Southeastern Kentucky very proud. I ask each of my colleagues to join me in honoring the June Buchanan basketball team.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE INDONESIAN GOVERNMENT TO THE UNITED STATES

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, since the United States embarked on a mission to rid the world of terrorism, many of our friends around the world have distanced themselves from America, hoping that will shield them from the wrath of the terrorists will one day bring to their countries. Indonesia has done the opposite: the government of the country home to the world's largest population of Muslims has instead forged stronger ties with the United States.

Recognizing Indonesia's importance on the global stage, its government—first under Megawati Soekarnoputri, and since then, under the leadership of Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono—has worked closely with the United States to fight terrorism, and the spread of radical Islamism. This alliance has come at no small cost to the Indonesians, as terrorists have repeatedly punished Indonesia by targeting hotels, nightclubs and other tourist attractions with deadly acts of terrorism. Nevertheless, the government of Indonesia has not wavered in its commitment, and has proven itself to be a great friend to the United States.

As Indonesia has supported the United States in our Global War against Terrorism, it is important that the United States continues to support Indonesia by recognizing its sovereignty, and that it doesn't intervene into Indonesia's internal matters. The government of Indonesia has proven itself to be more than sufficiently mature and responsible to handle its own internal issues, which relate only to Indonesians, and the United States should respect its abilities. The government of Indonesia has shown America that respect, and I believe we owe it to them to do the same.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT PENSION ADJUSTMENT EQUITY ACT OF 2007

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, along with my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, I am proud to introduce the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007. I am also very pleased to have other distinguished members of this body as original cosponsors of this important bipartisan legislation, including Mr. STUPAK of Michigan and Ms. JO ANN DAVIS, Mr. MORAN and Ms. DRAKE of Virginia.

Retirees of the United States Park Police and the Secret Service Uniformed Division who began their careers before January 1, 1984, were promised that, upon retirement, they would receive increases in their annuities proportional to pay increases for active duty servicemen and women. However, language included into the 2001 Consolidated Appropriations Act specifically denied this promise to this group of retirees as a cost-saving measure.

As a consequence, these retirees have been denied an annuity increase at great personal financial cost, even though they entered federal uniformed service with the promise that these annuities would be there for them upon retirement. This is a gross injustice to those who put their lives on the line every day in service to their country.

That is why we are introducing the Federal Law Enforcement Pension Adjustment Equity Act of 2007, to ensure that Congress does what is right, what is just and what is fair. This legislation is bipartisan and should not be controversial. It is my hope that this body can move this bill expeditiously through the legislative process and correct an injustice against uniformed federal personnel who have been willing to make the ultimate sacrifice to serve our country.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURE DAY

HON. ADRIAN SMITH

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Madam Speaker, today is National Agriculture Day. National Agriculture Day occurs every year on the first day of Spring. This is a week when we honor agriculture for providing safe, abundant and affordable products, a strong economy, a source of renewable energy, and a world of job opportunities.

It goes without saying that agriculture is tremendously important to my district and the nation as a whole, and I hope you join me in celebrating everyone who works so hard to provide for the world.

The Third District of Nebraska is one of the largest agricultural districts in the country. Our district ranks first in the value of sales of grains and oilseeds, second in total value of agricultural products sold, and first in cattle and calve inventory.

Simply put: Agriculture matters. National Agriculture Week is about celebrating the impact the industry has on our State, our Nation, and our everyday lives. I'm proud to represent the Third District of Nebraska, a district that truly embodies the spirit of this celebration.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MAIL-IN- BALLOT TRACKING ACT OF 2007

HON. SUSAN A. DAVIS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 22, 2007

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Mail-In Ballot Tracking Act of 2007—a bill to implement procedures for tracking the growing number of ballots in States throughout the country that are transmitted through the mail.

Although voters across the Nation are increasingly choosing to cast their ballots by mail because it is more convenient and they have more time to study their choices, many voters have been hesitant to do so because, quite frankly, they are worried that they cannot determine for certain where their mail ballots are in the system and whether they were actually received and counted.

In most cases, the fears of one's mail-in ballot somehow being lost in the system are unfounded—but we all know the fear is still there. Our Nation's voters deserve electoral procedures that are transparent and which strengthen their faith in democracy.

Sometimes there is reason for concern. I have heard horror stories from people who simply did not receive a ballot they requested.

Other voters have called their overwhelmed elections offices and waited on hold for too long trying to find out whether their ballot has been mailed or received. Even when they get to speak with an informed elections official, that official often cannot tell the voter where the ballot is because it is somewhere in the postal system.

The good news is that it is possible and practical to track mail ballots.

We have been tracking the process of overnight packages for years by using the Internet and the telephone. There is no reason why we cannot track ballots using similar technology.

In fact, some jurisdictions such as San Mateo County, CA are already tracking ballots with great success.

The United States Postal Service is currently introducing an "Intelligent Mail" system which, if applied to election mail, will allow voters to find out via the Internet or the telephone which postal processing facility last handled their ballots and when they were handled there.

Quite simply, the technology will soon exist to seamlessly track ballots from the time they are sent out from the appropriate elections office to the time they are received back and include all the key postal points along the way.

Implementing ballot tracking systems will bring voters peace of mind and reduce the burden on elections offices which are often barraged with phone calls from voters trying to determine the status of their ballots.

This legislation will also allow a voter to know whether his or her ballot passed the verification stage and will be counted.

Not only is mail ballot tracking feasible and helpful, but it is also affordable.